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General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 131

Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 52nd, 53rd and 56th meetings, on 19 and 20 May and 4 June 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.52, 53 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the final performance of the budget for the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (A/57/796) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see A/C.5/57/SR.52).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.87

4. At the 56th meeting, on 4 June 2003, the representative of Romania, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of informal consultations on this item, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola" (A/C.5/57/L.87).

03-39096 (E) 110603

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.87 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to retain an amount of 12,458,000 United States dollars from the balance of appropriations of 72,831,000 dollars to meet the cost of outstanding Government claims;

2. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola".

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[1] A/57/796.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Fifth Committee*, 52nd meeting (A/C.5/57/SR.52).

United Nations A/57/831

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 151

Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty- seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 52nd, 53rd and 56th meetings, on 19 and 20 May and 4 June 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.52, 53 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/682);

(b) Reports of the Secretary-General on the budget of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/683 and Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/723);

(d) Progress report of the Secretary-General on the status of the airfield services contract for the Mission (A/57/756);

03-39138 (E) 120603

(e) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/772 and Add.10).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.75

4. At the 56th meeting, on 4 June 2003, the representative of Ireland, coordinator of informal consultations on this item, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" (A/C.5/57/L.75).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.75 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1258 (1999) of 6 August 1999 and 1279 (1999) of 30 November 1999 regarding, respectively, the deployment to the region of military liaison personnel and the establishment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1417 (2002) of 14 June 2002,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1445 (2002) of 4 December 2002, by which the Council endorsed the new concept of operation and authorized the expansion of the Mission,

Recalling further its resolution 54/260 A of 7 April 2000, as well as subsequent resolutions on the financing of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 56/252 C of 27 June 2002,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

[1] A/57/682, A/57/683 and Add.1 and A/57/723.
[2] A/57/772 and Add.10.

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as at 31 March 2003, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 211.9 million United States dollars, representing some 17 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only twenty-six Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

3. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

8. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the status of the airfield services contract for the Mission,[3] and looks forward to the further review of the subject by the Board of Auditors;

9. *Reaffirms* the relevant provisions of its resolutions 55/232 of 23 December 2000 and 55/247 of 12 April 2001;

10. *Also reaffirms* its resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 and decision 49/478 A of 31 March 1995;

11. *Notes* the intention of the Secretary-General to submit a proposed revised budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, reflecting the developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and further decisions of the Security Council, to the General Assembly at the main part of its fifty-eighth session;[4]

[3] A/57/756.

[4] See A/C.5/57/SR.52.

12. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,[5] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation, with the understanding that the Secretary-General should have adequate resources to address the changing situation on the ground, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with maximum efficiency and economy, particularly with regard to air transport;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Mission for the period from July 2001 to 30 June 2002;[6]

16. *Decides* to offset the amount of 41 million dollars, which had been appropriated but not apportioned during the financial period ended 30 June 2001 against the unencumbered balance of 61,173,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

17. *Also decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo the amount of 608,228,150 dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, inclusive of 582 million dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 20,083,850 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 6,144,300 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base, pending the submission of the proposed revised budget to the General Assembly;

Financing of the appropriation

18. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 608,228,150 dollars at a monthly rate of 50,685,679 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolutions 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolution 55/236 of 23 December 2000, and 57/290 of 20 December 2002, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2003, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000 and 57/4 B of 20 December 2002, and for the year 2004,[7] subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission, pending the submission of the proposed revised budget to the General Assembly;

19. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 18 above, their respective share

[5] A/57/772/Add.10.

[6] A/57/682.

[7] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

in the Tax Equalization Fund of 14,599,236 dollars at a monthly rate of 1,216,603 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 9,710,736 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 4,525,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, and the prorated share of 363,300 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

20. *Further decides* that for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 18 above, their respective share of the remaining unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 43,158,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the levels set out in resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/236, and resolution 57/290 and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2002, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B and 57/4 B;

21. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their share of the remaining unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 43,158,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 20 above;

22. *Also decides* that the decrease of 448,600 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be set off against the credits from the amount referred to in paragraphs 20 and 21 above;

23. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

24. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

25. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo".

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Agenda item 129

Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 46th, 47th, 48th and 56th meetings, on 5, 7 and 8 May and on 4 June 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.46, 47, 48 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/666);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/689);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/723);

03-39102 (E) 130603

(d) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/772 and Add.11).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.80

4. At the 56th meeting, on 4 June 2003, the representative of Guatemala and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor" (A/C.5/57/L.80).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.80 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor,[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1272 (1999) of 25 October 1999 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Transitional Administration, the latest of which was resolution 1392 (2002) of 31 January 2002, by which the mandate was extended until 20 May 2002,

Recalling also its resolution 54/246 A of 23 December 1999 on the financing of the Transitional Administration and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 56/296 of 27 June 2002,

Recalling further Security Council resolution 1410 (2002) of 17 May 2002, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor as of 20 May 2002 for an initial period of twelve months, and its subsequent resolution 1480 (2003) of 19 May 2003, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Support Mission until 20 May 2004,

[1] A/57/666, A/57/689 and A/57/723.
[2] A/57/772 and Add.11.

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Support Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor as at 31 March 2003, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 86.1 million United States dollars, representing some 5 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Transitional Administration and the Support Mission in full;

3. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Support Mission;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

[3] A/57/772/Add.11.

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the additional resources referred to in paragraph 20 of the report of the Advisory Committee[3] are used to strengthen national judicial capacity consistent with the needs of the Timorese people and the mandate of the Support Mission;

Financial performance report for the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

10. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Transitional Administration and the Support Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002;[4]

Budget estimates for the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

11. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor the amount of 193,337,100 dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, inclusive of 185 million dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 6,384,000 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, and 1,953,100 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

12. *Decides also* to apportion among Member States the amount of 193,337,100 dollars at a monthly rate of 16,111,425 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235 of 23 December 2000, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 of 23 December 2000 and 57/290 of 20 December 2002, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2003 as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000, 57/4 B of 20 December 2002 and for the year 2004,[5] subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

13. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 12 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 7,568,200 dollars at a monthly rate of 630,683 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 6,014,400 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 1,438,300 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, and the prorated share of 115,500 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

14. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Transitional Administration and the Support Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 12 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and of other income in the total amount of 21,622,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 and 57/290, and taking into

[4] A/57/666.

[5] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

account the scale of assessments for the year 2002 as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B and 57/4 B;

15. *Decides also* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Transitional Administration and the Support Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 21,622,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 14 above;

16. *Decides further* that the increase of 529,000 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be added to the credit from the amount referred to in paragraphs 14 and 15 above, and that the respective shares of Member States therein shall be applied in accordance with the provisions of those paragraphs as appropriate;

17. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

18. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

19. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor".

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Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991): United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991): United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 54th and 56th meetings, on 22 May and 4 June 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.54 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/665);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the Observation Mission for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/664 and Corr.1);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the financing of the Observation Mission for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/811);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from

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1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/723);

(e) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/772, para. 6, and A/57/813).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.81

4. At the 57th meeting, on 4 June, the representative of New Zealand and coordinator of informal consultations on the item introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission" (A/C.5/57/L.81).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.81 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991 and 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission and to review the question of its termination or continuation every six months,

Recalling also its resolution 45/260 of 3 May 1991 on the financing of the Observation Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 56/297 of 27 June 2002,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Expressing its appreciation for the substantial voluntary contributions made to the Observation Mission by the Government of Kuwait and the contributions of other Governments,

[1] A/57/664 and Corr.1, A/57/665, A/57/723 and A/57/811.
[2] A/57/772, para. 6 and A/57/813.

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observation Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission as at 31 March 2003, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 10.2 million United States dollars, representing some 3 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty-six Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its continued appreciation* of the decision of the Government of Kuwait to defray two thirds of the cost of the Observation Mission, effective 1 November 1993;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Observation Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Observation Mission;

9. *Endorses* the recommendation contained in paragraph 5 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure its full implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observation Mission is administered with maximum efficiency and economy;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Observation Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Observation Mission;

[3] A/57/813.

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

12. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Observation Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002,[4] and of the treatment of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 6,443,300 United States dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, at the main part of its fifty-eighth session;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget of the Observation Mission[5] and the note of the Secretary-General on the financing of the Observation Mission for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;[6]

14. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding 12 million dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2003, to be financed from the accumulated fund balance in the Special Account for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;

15. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

16. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Observation Mission;

17. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Observation Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)", the sub-item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission".

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[4] A/57/665.
[5] A/57/664 and Corr.1.
[6] A/57/811.

United Nations A/57/834

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Agenda item 135

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 46th, 47th and 56th meetings, on 5 and 7 May and 4 June 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.46, 47 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/674);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/675 and Corr.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/723);

(d) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/772 and Add.2).

03-39132 (E) 130603

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.83

4. At the 56th meeting, on 4 June, the representative of the Philippines and coordinator of informal consultations on this item introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/57/L.83).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.83 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1469 (2003) of 25 March 2003,

Recalling also its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 56/298 of 27 June 2002,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 31 March 2003, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 48.1 million United States dollars, representing some 10 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only twenty-three Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full

[1] A/57/674, A/57/675 and Corr.1 and A/57/723.
[2] A/57/772 and Add.2.

and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

3. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

5. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation without prejudice to a future discussion and decision on the proposal to create the post of Deputy Force Commander;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002;[4]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

13. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 43,401,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, inclusive of 41,529,500 dollars for the

[3] A/57/772/Add.2.
[4] A/57/674.

maintenance of the Mission, 1,433,100 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 438,400 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

14. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 43,401,000 dollars at a monthly rate of 3,616,750 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 of 23 December 2000 and 57/290 of 20 December 2002, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2003, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000 and 57/4 B of 20 December 2002, and for the year 2004,[5] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

15. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 3,389,800 dollars at a monthly rate of 282,483 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 3,041,000 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 322,900 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 25,900 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

16. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and of other income in the total amount of 12,289,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 and 57/290, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2002, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B and 57/4 B;

17. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 12,289,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 16 above;

18. *Further decides* that the decrease of 817,500 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be set off against the credits from the amounts referred to in paragraphs 16 and 17 above;

19. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

20. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

21. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as

[5] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".

United Nations A/57/835

General Assembly

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10 June 2003

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 143

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 46th, 47th, 48th, and 56th meetings, on 5, 7 and 8 May and on 4 June 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.46, 47, 48, and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/676*);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/677);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and the budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/723);

(d) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/772 and Add.1).

03-39144 (E) 130603

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.68

4. At the 56th meeting, on 4 June, the representative of Ethiopia, rapporteur and coordinator of the informal consultations on this item, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia" (A/C.5/57/L.68).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.68 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, by which the Council approved the deployment of an advance team of up to ten United Nations military observers for a period of three months and the incorporation of the advance team into a United Nations observer mission if such a mission was formally established by the Council,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1462 (2003) of 30 January 2003,

Recalling further its decision 48/475 A of 23 December 1993 on the financing of the Observer Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 56/503 of 27 June 2002,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia as at 31 March 2003, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 16.4 million United States dollars, representing some 9 per cent of the

[1] A/57/676, A/57/677 and A/57/723.

[2] A/57/772 and Add.1.

total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only twenty-two Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Observer Mission in full;

3. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

4. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

5. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

6. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Observer Mission;

7. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observer Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy, with particular regard to air transport;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Observer Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

10. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002;[4]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

11. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia the amount of 32,092,900 dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, inclusive of 30,709,000 dollars for the maintenance of

[3] A/57/772/Add.1.
[4] A/57/676.

the Observer Mission, 1,059,700 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 324,200 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

12. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 32,092,900 dollars at a monthly rate of 2,674,408 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/236 of 23 December 2000 and 57/290 of 20 December 2002, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2003, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000 and 57/4 B of 20 December 2002, and for the year 2004,[5] subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

13. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 12 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,218,100 dollars at a monthly rate of 184,841 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,960,200 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 238,700 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, and the prorated share of 19,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

14. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Observer Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 12 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 2,687,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolutions 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 and 57/290, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2002, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B and 57/4 B;

15. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Observer Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 2,687,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 14 above;

16. *Further decides* that the increase of 137,200 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be added to the credit from the amount referred to in paragraphs 14 and 15 above, and that the respective shares of Member States therein shall be applied in accordance with the provisions of those paragraphs, as appropriate;

17. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

18. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Observer Mission;

[5] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

19. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia".

United Nations A/57/836

General Assembly

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11 June 2003

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 53
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Letter dated 9 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to forward herewith the report of a retreat on reform of the General Assembly, which brought together a group of Permanent Representatives on 16 and 17 May 2003 (see annex). The meeting was organized by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the International Peace Academy, in close cooperation.

Participants in the seminar discussed the role of and priority issues for the General Assembly, the streamlining of its agenda, its decision-making processes and the organization of its work.

Participants discussed concrete suggestions for possible improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of the General Assembly and agreed that these could be useful contributions to the ongoing discussions on its revitalization.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 53.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations

03-39266 (E) 160603

Annex to the letter dated 9 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

From promise to practice: revitalizing the General Assembly for the new millennium

High-level retreat, 16-17 May 2003
Greentree Estate, Manhasset, New York

Summary and programme of action

Introduction

The International Peace Academy, in collaboration with and thanks to generous support from the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, convened a high-level retreat on 16 and 17 May entitled "*From promise to practice: revitalizing the General Assembly for the new millennium*". The retreat brought together, in an informal setting, approximately 25 Permanent Representatives and a very few Deputy Permanent Representatives, in addition to a member of the Secretariat and a key outside expert, over dinner and one full day of deliberations at the Greentree Estate in Manhasset, New York.[a]

The purpose of the retreat was to provide an opportunity for open and frank discussion on intergovernmental revitalization and, possibly, reform with a focus on the premier deliberative body of the United Nations system: the General Assembly. The ultimate goal of the retreat was to generate concrete suggestions for improvement or resolution in order to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the Assembly.

Opportunities: the unique role of the General Assembly

The essence of the General Assembly lies in its unique role in bringing together all the countries of the world on an equal footing. By providing a forum for deliberation among member States, it offers the opportunity to engage in cooperation at a global level and on an unusually broad spectrum of issues. It should be appreciated that for many countries the Assembly is their main outlet on the international stage. As such, the Assembly embodies and gives voice to the core principles of the Charter of the United Nations. As a meeting place and a forum in which to discuss global issues, the General Assembly is unparalleled.

The primary success of the General Assembly has been in the creation and maintenance of international norms. The special sessions and major conferences that the Assembly has convened have substantially contributed to this success. It has been the birthplace of important international treaties and agreements and has therefore played an essential role in developing international law.

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[a] We are also grateful to the Greentree Foundation for its generous support for this event.

In this regard, declaratory resolutions of the General Assembly have had an impact. For instance, the Assembly played a unique role in bringing an end to the apartheid regime in South Africa, and further in solidifying the principle of equality among peoples around the world.

Challenges: the General Assembly in a complex, unipolar world

The General Assembly faces two primary challenges that threaten its — and the United Nations — credibility and legitimacy as global arbiter and decision maker. The first, policy-level, challenge is the chronic, and increasingly acute, gap between issues of global import and relevance and the way they are addressed by the Assembly. Since the early 1990s it has been increasingly hamstrung by the inability of member States to situate the Assembly in the post-cold-war era.

The second challenge is primarily operational, and lies in its rigid and mechanical procedures, which are the result of traditions and habits rather than of Charter provisions or of considerations focused on goals to be achieved. The General Assembly's lack of teeth to ensure the implementation of decisions also contributes to the perception of irrelevance.

These challenges are in part why attention and decision-making have shifted to the Security Council, sometimes even for matters that are only indirectly connected to its responsibilities. At the same time, other bodies, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, have gained significant ground in economic and social spheres. The effectiveness of these financial institutions has been buttressed by significant resources, but also by their orientation towards monitoring and results, and perhaps by their non-consensual mode of operation. The emergence of increased regional cooperation has also distanced the General Assembly in the perspectives of member States.

Key issues and key actions

A. Political will — "attitude"

Real or perceived national interests dominate much of the debate (sometimes understandably so), but divert attention away from the overarching interest of member States to keep the work in the General Assembly relevant and responsive to world events and global developments. Our present actions in the Assembly in fact run the risk of being evaluated by later generations as the proverbial rearranging of the deck chairs on the *Titanic*. This necessitates that all member States, small, big and very big, share the view that the relevance of the Assembly in essence coincides with their national interests. In order to overcome the current "autopilot" behavioural patterns of member States in the Assembly — and the comfort that irrelevance sometimes seems to bring — creative thinking is required on how to shape the work of the Assembly. The spirit that animated the Millennium Summit clearly needs to be rekindled if we want to promote the results called for by the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

Is there a genuine political will to revitalize or to reform the General Assembly? A clear focus on this issue still seems to be obscured by the persistence of the North-South dichotomy in the New York United Nations arena, which, while

important, also seems to have slowed progress as a result of the general and unhelpful "them and us" approach that can accompany it. Admittedly, North-South and other regional groupings have developed as important negotiation mechanisms, in part to overcome the asymmetries of power inherent in the international system. However, while North-South groupings may have been useful, their utility in achieving positive negotiated outcomes has declined since the end of the cold war. Groups also obscure the differences of view and of interest among their members.

B. Leadership

Leadership: role of the President

Achieving results requires effective leadership. Unfortunately, the General Assembly is by its very nature antithetical to leadership; more, member States, at times, resist it. Nonetheless, participants agreed that the role of the President of the General Assembly was crucial and necessary in providing overall leadership to the body. The ability of the President to provide leadership was deemed to be a function of various factors, including past experience in, and good knowledge of, the United Nations system; his/her continued presence in New York; the availability of resources and high-quality support staff; and good communication and leadership skills. History suggests that it has not always been an easy task to find individuals that combine all the necessary qualities.

The lack of resources available to the General Assembly, and in particular to the President and his/her cabinet, in terms of both money and personnel, significantly hampers the effectiveness of the body. The President brings to bear those resources he/she is able to garner (inherently favouring resource-rich delegations). In addition, the lack of continuity of staff between presidencies discourages lesson-learning and the development of institutional memory.

- It was suggested that candidates for the presidency of the Assembly should be elected on the basis of a good match between personal capacities (including management skills), experience and functional requirements; geographical considerations should come second. Election from a group of several candidates could be desirable.

- Consideration could also be given to electing an effective President for a second (or third) term in a row. (Although fixing the term of a President for one year, the Charter does not preclude re-election.) A second term would enable the President to draw upon experience and to project continuity. In addition, consideration could be given to advancing the election of a President so as to allow a good amount of time for the preparation of his or her term of office.

- A third suggestion concerned the introduction of a General Assembly coordinator to support the President. Under the direct guidance of the President, this individual would be responsible for taking care of the direct management of Assembly meetings, provide for procedural solutions for specific agenda items (if required) and keep track of "work in progress" regarding resolutions, etc. The President could concentrate on key decisions to be taken by the Assembly, possible high-level events, the procedural tasks incumbent on the President, etc. Such a coordinator could be recruited from among (experienced) Permanent Representatives.

- A fourth suggestion focused on the need to staff and budget more seriously the Office of the President. United Nations staff members should be encouraged to enrich their working experience by serving two or three years in the Office of the President. Such arrangements could also help to increase the level of institutional memory in the Office.

Leadership: role of the Secretary-General

The role of the Secretary-General in providing intellectual and moral leadership should be put to better use to guide more actively the General Assembly in its deliberations. Although in formal terms the President of the Assembly ranks higher than the Secretary-General, reality dictates that the Secretary-General is in the present circumstances better placed to provide this kind of leadership.

- It was therefore suggested that the Secretary-General should issue his report on the work of the Organization well in advance of the start of the General Assembly session and the general debate. The Secretary-General could include a section on one or two key global issues, which could serve as a point of reference for the general debate. In fact, these suggestions can already be found in resolution 51/241.

Leadership: role of Permanent Representatives

The corps of 191 Permanent Representatives constitutes a rich reservoir of experience and intellect. However, too often this "capital" is underexploited. Reality dictates that one individual can hardly fully master the vast range of topics covered by the United Nations. There is a serious risk that Permanent Representatives can turn into observers of the processes for which they themselves are responsible; it is like seeing the ship being wrecked while in command of the steering wheel. This phenomenon is amplified by the bias of attention in favour of the political agenda at the United Nations and within Missions. Permanent Representatives should regain control of the complete agenda of the United Nations, secure its coherence and focus on its outcome. The effective leadership of Permanent Representatives is vital in this regard.

- Permanent Representatives could be more involved in the Assembly through better use of their possible roles as facilitators or vice-presidents. The President of the Assembly could ask one or several Permanent Representatives to deal with a certain issue as facilitator(s). Depending on the issue, the selection could be made on the basis of a regional distribution or on the basis of specific knowledge and experience. Such a group should be clearly announced and operate in a transparent manner.

C. The agenda of the General Assembly

The general debate

The opening meetings of each session of the General Assembly offer a unique opportunity to provide intellectual focus at the highest levels, in capitals and within the United Nations system, around major themes of global relevance. Over the years the debate has attracted the presence of a substantial number of Heads of State or Government, as well as Foreign Ministers. These meetings are also important in that they provide a unique window into the United Nations system for capitals and the

general public, thanks to fleeting media interest during that period. The general debate is also of major value because of the occasion it provides to engage in useful diplomatic work in the "corridors" of the Assembly.

Nevertheless, it seems that the general debate has lost relevance in its formal plenary format. Speeches lack common focus on important international issues and clearly have a significant domestic dimension. The introduction of key themes could help to redress this. The Secretary-General's millennium report was crucial in this respect: it offered member States the opportunity to reflect on the major priorities outlined by the Secretary-General and was instrumental in making a success of that year's General Assembly session.

- The notion of "key themes" for General Assembly sessions should be repeated in the future to provide greater coherence to the articulation of priorities by member States and to the Assembly as a whole. This underlines the importance of a more focused annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the organization.
- The function as a meeting place could be made more explicit and relevant by inviting key persons of other international institutions of importance for the discussions on the key themes.
- The infrastructure of the general debate (the "corridors") as a meeting place needs improvement. Not only the physical infrastructure (the improvised cubicles) but also the communication structure could be improved.

The agenda

Perhaps the most important issue on which action by the membership can be taken immediately is to revive the role of the General Assembly as the political body in which major issues of the day are discussed. However, to maximize the utility of the body member States must be willing to engage in actual deliberation and debate rather than the mechanistic and non-interactive policy-statement approach that currently characterizes the discussions therein.

- In this respect the Assembly should be able to respond in a flexible manner to the desires of member States to take up topical issues that are of truly global importance: e.g., the role of multilateralism, conflict management, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, poverty, etc.
- In this context, high-level dialogues, and especially panels, were mentioned as a format to accommodate discussion on topical issues. They should not be free-floating add-ons, but should be linked to the decision-making process and partially replace the traditional "debates".
- While continuing its norm-setting role, the Assembly should also concentrate much more on implementation of the results of the major conferences and other agreements of the past decade. Implementation will be vital for the United Nations now that the comprehensive global agenda has been set and its objectives translated in the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

With 173 agenda items proposed for the fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly's agenda is clearly unwieldy. As a result, it lacks coherence, especially as seen from the outside world. But also for many Missions, and in particular the

smaller ones, the agenda is increasingly difficult to comprehend. In order to render it more relevant and accessible, and more meaningful to delegation's capitals, it must be streamlined. This requires member States to identify issues of primary relevance to be placed at the top of the agenda. In addition, there is a need to re-examine how the agenda is actually addressed.

- It was suggested that issues on the agenda be re-clustered around major themes, e.g., in alignment with the seven sections of the Millennium Declaration. This could clarify the link between the Millennium Declaration and the agenda.
- It was suggested that the agenda be seen as a comprehensive list of issues. The programme of work of a specific session of the Assembly should then be based on the agenda but not necessarily encompass all the issues on it. In this way member States could focus on issues that are considered to be of particular importance to that session of the Assembly.
- The agenda should be drawn up on the basis of an issue-driven format. The listing of resolutions as agenda items does not improve the understanding of the main orientations of the Assembly. The annotation of the agenda could perhaps be envisaged in order to make it more informative. Such annotations could be elaborated to include a description of key issues to be addressed and of the decisions that are expected of the member States under the particular agenda item. This could steer the Assembly away from the compulsory reflex that every agenda item should end in a resolution.
- A group of experts could shed light on the agenda and list proposals to enhance its transparency and management. This group of experts could consist of former Permanent Representatives, former members of the Secretariat or outside experts (academics, consultants). Whether this would be a one-time or a regular exercise remains to be seen. Such a study could certainly be a point of departure for the other suggestions in this section. It was suggested that such a group could convene at very short notice to submit proposals as a "gift" to the incoming President of the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

The General Committee

The General Committee comprises the President, the 21 Vice-Presidents and the Chairs of the Main Committees. This body should play a much more active role in steering the General Assembly through its deliberations. Given its composition, it is well positioned to maintain an overview of the work in the Main Committees and their link with the agenda of the Assembly. The General Committee should interact more with the Secretariat and could work on the proposed annotated agenda.

- It was widely felt that the General Committee should be activated and should play a much more dynamic role in the course of the Assembly.
- Reporting requirements could also be taken up in the General Committee. Decisions requesting the production of reports by the Secretariat should be assessed in the light of their relative relevance and of the capacity of the Secretariat to produce them.

D. The General Assembly and its Main Committees

The agenda of the General Assembly cannot be seen in isolation from the work of the Main Committees. Obviously, there is a clear link. However, instead of having the Assembly direct the work of the Main Committees, as one would expect, the process seems to work the other way around. The Main Committees carry the agenda of the Assembly, and they have the advantage of garnering the interest of member States (the level of attendance in the Main Committees compares quite favourably with that in the plenary of the Assembly). However, the Main Committees suffer from the repetition syndrome and from a focus on details. It would therefore be desirable to reframe the work of the Main Committees in the light of the suggested changes in the agenda of the Assembly.

- There is no need to concentrate the work of all the Main Committees in the last three months of the year. If the agenda of the Assembly could be grouped into a Millennium Declaration framework, clever sequencing could make effective use of the whole year.
- The sessions of the Main Committees should start with a debate at the Permanent Representative level with the purpose of clearly spelling out the guiding policy lines for the work to be done. This could induce the much-needed deeper interest of Permanent Representatives. It could also put a cap on the too detailed and overzealous approaches adopted by some delegates.
- The Chairs of the Main Committees must play a truly leading role in facilitating and shaping the deliberations of the Committees. In the context of a reactivated General Committee, such a role is key. They could also have a role in stimulating the Secretariat in its task of drafting reports that will actually be used by the delegations.
- In the longer run, possible mergers between committees should be considered. Obvious candidates in this respect are the First and the Fourth Committees. Here, again, a forward-looking approach is needed, based on an assessment of how to manage the agenda effectively.
- While the discussion focused on the Main Committees, it was recognized that there are numerous subsidiary bodies of the Assembly. Certainly not all of these bodies have retained the same urgency and relevance as on the date of their creation. Streamlining, rationalization and modernization of this "forest" should be taken up.

E. The General Assembly — budgeting and management

A more dynamic and forward-looking approach to management and budget issues was also considered necessary for better results. This is an area where the General Assembly has binding authority. Time and again the Assembly misses the opportunity to set out a comprehensive, more strategic approach to these issues. So far the work of the Assembly, and in that respect of the Fifth Committee, has generally shown a tendency towards micromanagement and even narrow- and short-sightedness. Too often discussions on the budget have served political purposes quite outside the management and budget issues of the United Nations that should be the focus of member States in the Fifth Committee.

- The suggestions cited above regarding the involvement of Permanent Representatives in the work of the Assembly and the Main Committees are in particular relevant for the Fifth Committee.

F. The role and meaning of resolutions

The growing number of resolutions reduces the relevance of a resolution as an expression of the will of the international community. Resolutions are often repetitive over the years; somehow the notion has crept in that resolutions do not stand if they are not re-adopted year after year. The approach to resolutions is usually very conservative and defensive. Resolutions hardly ever contribute to a clear insight for the outside world into the intentions of the international community; they are often lengthy, and the process of negotiation and compromise has damaged their readability and usefulness. In terms of action, resolutions in many cases confine themselves to requesting the Secretariat to write a report on the issue concerned. One can only fear what the fate of these reports will be; there seems to be very little interest in the follow-up of resolutions.

- Serious consideration should be given to the role of resolutions. This should include discussions on the format of resolutions, as well as the length and the necessity of repetitive adoption.
- It may be useful to make a distinction between norm-setting or declaratory resolutions on one hand and resolutions that produce binding decisions on financial and management issues on the other.
- It was proposed that resolutions be clustered around major issues as a way of lessening their overall number.
- Resolutions should primarily be focused on new elements.
- Follow-up to resolutions should become the priority. Giving sponsors of resolutions a role in actively monitoring their implementation could be considered. This would create a beginning of accountability that could greatly enhance the credibility of the United Nations.

G. Consensus

Consensual decision-making is the primary hallmark of the General Assembly. At the same time, consensual decision-making brings with it a host of challenges that hamper the ability of the Assembly to achieve positive results quickly. Further, and perhaps more significantly, it can lead to zero-sum bargaining and suboptimal (because of catering to the lowest common denominator) outcomes. Consensus does not necessarily, however, imply unanimity, and member States ought to be comfortable enough to agree to disagree when relevant.

H. The General Assembly and the United Nations system

The revitalization and possible reform of the General Assembly needs to be considered against the backdrop of the Assembly's relationship with other principal Charter bodies, the Secretariat, and the United Nations specialized agencies. The Security Council has in many ways stolen the thunder of the Assembly, and it is incumbent upon the membership as a whole to re-centre (when appropriate) the

Assembly. At the same time, it is important to strengthen the interaction among the intergovernmental bodies.

- It is important to better capitalize on the comparative advantages of the intergovernmental bodies so that they can work in better harmony, as well as comprehensively, towards the achievement of common goals through, for instance, composite committees made up of members of the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

- The relationship between the General Assembly and the Secretariat and United Nations agencies is also important. Too often the relationship is mechanistic, leading to sterile inputs and outputs on behalf of both delegations and the Secretariat. The Secretariat should be encouraged to be more outspoken and to be more daring in its analysis and recommendations.

- It is quite surprising that there are hardly any structural provisions for the member States and the Secretariat to interact. These contacts are ad hoc and depend highly on the willingness of Permanent Representatives to organize such contacts via, for example, lunchtime meetings. Regular debriefings should be considered to remedy this obvious deficiency in the system.

Finally, the relationship between delegations in New York and those in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi was also touched upon as important in ensuring coherence and proper linkages within the representation of member States.

Other issues

A. Civil society/non-governmental organizations

The role of civil society and non-governmental organizations in providing both valuable knowledge and perspectives on global issues, as well as in furthering the legitimacy of the General Assembly and the United Nations, is still too often underappreciated. Moreover, there are few mechanisms through which the Assembly can systematically engage with or tap relevant members of civil society and non-governmental organizations. While institutionalizing the relationship between the Assembly and civil society/non-governmental organizations risks, as one participant noted, the "carnivalization" of the Assembly, creative mechanisms for engagement ought to be envisaged.

B. Media, capitals and the general public

The lack of public and media interest in the General Assembly is in many ways a side effect of what appears to be a reduction in understanding of and support for the United Nations as a whole around the world, and within the United States of America in particular. This has been heightened in the wake of recent events in and around Iraq. Such lack of support contributes further to the already observable erosion of interest in the Assembly in capitals. The revival of media interest is a necessary component of re-engaging publics and capitals; however, such revival is dependent on heightening the relevance of the Assembly to the public.

C. Revitalize or reform?

Participants raised the question of whether to approach the desired result of strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of the General Assembly through revitalization — i.e., changes room by room — or whether to attempt reform — i.e., modifying the whole house. It was generally agreed that while there was likely little space in which to address the "fixed constraints" (such as consensual decision-making and the geopolitical context), several options, also more radical solutions, at the policy (macro) and operational (micro) levels could and should be adopted.

New York, 5 June 2003

Enclosure

List of participants

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Permanent Representative of Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Abdallah Baali
Permanent Representative of Algeria

H.E. Mr. Dirk Jan van den Berg
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands

H.E. Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh

H.E. Mr. Koichi Haraguchi
Permanent Representative of Japan

H.E. Mr. Paul Heinbecker
Permanent Representative of Canada

H.E. Mr. Abdul Mejid Hussein
Permanent Representative of Ethiopia

Ms. Margaret Kelley
Director, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division, United Nations Secretariat

H.E. Mr. Roman Kirn
Permanent Representative of Slovenia

H.E. Mr. Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo
Permanent Representative of South Africa

H.E. Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj
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Professor Edward Luck
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Mr. David M. Malone
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H.E. Mr. Arthur C. I. Mbanefo
Permanent Representative of Nigeria

H.E. Mr. Don MacKay
Permanent Representative of New Zealand

H.E. Mr. Kishore Mahbubani
Permanent Representative of Singapore

H.E. Mr. Vijay K. Nambiar
Permanent Representative of India

H.E. Ms. A. Missouri Sherman-Peter
Saint Lucia, Chef de Cabinet to the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session

H.E. Mr. Jean de Ruyt
Permanent Representative of Belgium

H.E. Mr. Jean-Marc de La Sablière
Permanent Representative of France

H.E. Mr. Marcello Spatafora
Permanent Representative of Italy

H.E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba
Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico

Mr. Arjan Paul Hamburger
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands

Mr. Ronald Elkhuizen
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Netherlands

United Nations A/57/837

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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 46th to 48th and 56th meetings, on 5, 7 and 8 May and 4 June 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.46-48 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/668);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the Force for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/688);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/723);

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(d) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/772 and Add.7).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.70

4. At the 56th meeting, on 4 June, the representative of Argentina, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on this item, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" (A/C.5/57/L.70) and orally corrected the amounts referred to in paragraphs 19 and 21 of the draft resolution, namely, 39,901,700 dollars and 966,000 dollars to read 40,009,200 dollars and 982,100 dollars, respectively.

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division made a statement (see A/C.5/57/SR.56).

6. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement (see A/C.5/57/SR.56).

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.70, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1451 (2002) of 17 December 2002,

Recalling also its resolution 3211 B (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 56/294 of 27 June 2002,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

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[1] A/57/668, A/57/688 and A/57/723.

[2] A/57/772 and Add.7.

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force as at 31 March 2003, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 25.7 million United States dollars, representing some 2 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty-three Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

3. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Urges* all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

5. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Force;

9. *Takes note* of the observation contained in paragraph 20 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[3] and endorses the remaining conclusions and recommendations, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full compliance, without prejudice to a future discussion and decision on the proposal to create the post of Deputy Force Commander, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

10. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to fill the three general staff posts referred to in paragraph 22 of the report of the Advisory Committee[3] for a period not to exceed one year and invites the Secretary-General to resubmit with full justification this request in connection with the budget request for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005;

11. *Also invites* the Secretary-General to resubmit with full justification his request concerning the proposed upgrade of the Chief Administrative Officer in

[3] A/57/772/Add.7.

connection with the budget proposal for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005;

12. *Decides* to eliminate the vacant Field Service driver position in the Office of the Force Commander;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the implementation of paragraph 10 of its resolution 56/294 through making allowance for difficulties resulting from the relocation of the headquarters of the Force from Damascus to Camp Faouar;

16. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's observation in paragraph 17 of his report[4] that all outstanding issues have been satisfactorily resolved and, in this regard, recognizes the need for continuing dialogue between staff and management, consistent with the existing mechanisms in all peacekeeping missions;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Modernization Programme should fully respect the relevant mandates of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

18. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002;[5]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

19. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the amount of 41,812,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, inclusive of 40,009,200 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 1,380,600 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, and 422,400 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

20. *Decides also* to apportion among Member States the amount of 41,812,200 dollars at a monthly rate of 3,484,350 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 of 23 December 2000 and 57/290 of 20 December 2002, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2003, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000 and 57/4 B of 20 December 2002, and for the year 2004,[6] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

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[4] A/57/688.

[5] A/57/668.

[6] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

21. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 20 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,318,100 dollars at a monthly rate of 109,842 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 982,100 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 311,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, and the prorated share of 25,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

22. *Decides* that for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 20 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 2,488,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 and 57/290, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2002, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B and 57/4 B;

23. *Decides also* that for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 2,488,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 22 above;

24. *Decides further* that the increase of 200,800 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be added to the credit from the amount referred to in paragraphs 22 and 23 above, and that the respective shares of Member States therein shall be applied in accordance with the provisions of those paragraphs as appropriate;

25. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

26. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Force;

27. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Disengagement Observer Force".

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Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 46th, 47th, 48th and 56th meetings, on 5, 7 and 8 May and 4 June 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.46-48 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/667);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the Force for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/687 and Corr.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/723);

(d) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/772 and Add.4 and Add.4/Corr.1).

03-30235 (E) 130603

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.69

4. At its 56th meeting, on 4 June, the representative of Argentina, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of informal consultations on the item, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus" (A/C.5/57/L.69).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.69 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, regarding the establishment of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1442 (2002) of 25 November 2002,

Recalling also its resolution 47/236 of 14 September 1993 on the financing of the Force for the period beginning 16 June 1993 and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 56/502 of 27 June 2002,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force by certain Governments,

Noting that voluntary contributions were insufficient to cover all the costs of the Force, including those incurred by troop-contributing Governments prior to 16 June 1993, and regretting the absence of an adequate response to appeals for voluntary contributions, including that contained in the letter dated 17 May 1994 from the Secretary-General to all Member States,[3]

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

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[1] A/57/667, A/57/687 and Corr.1 and A/57/723.

[2] A/57/772 and Add.4 and Add.4/Corr.1.

[3] S/1994/647.

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus as at 31 March 2003, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 20.2 million United States dollars, representing some 9 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty-one Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payment by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Force;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

11. *Takes notes* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002;[5]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

12. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus the amount of 45,772,600 dollars for the period from

[4] A/57/772/Add.4 and Corr.1.
[5] A/57/667.

1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, inclusive of 43,798,800 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 1,511,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 462,400 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

13. *Notes with appreciation* that a one-third share of the net appropriation, equivalent to 14,567,500 dollars, will be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Cyprus and the amount of 6.5 million dollars from the Government of Greece;

14. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 24,705,100 dollars at a monthly rate of 2,058,758 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235 of 23 December 2000, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 of 23 December 2000 and 57/290 of 20 December 2002, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2003, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000 and 57/4 B of 20 December 2002, and for the year 2004,[6] subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

15. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,070,100 dollars at a monthly rate of 172,508 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,702,300 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 340,500 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 27,300 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

16. *Further decides* that, taking into account the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 5,381,600 dollars for the financial period ended 30 June 2002, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 2,747,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 and 57/290, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2002, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B and 57/4 B;

17. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 2,747,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 16 above;

18. *Also decides* that the decrease of 38,000 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be set off against the credits from the amount of 2,747,000 referred to in paragraphs 16 and

[6] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

17 above, and that the respective shares of Member States therein shall be applied in accordance with the provisions of those paragraphs, as appropriate;

19. *Further decides*, taking into account its voluntary contribution for the financial period ended 30 June 2002, that one third of the net unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 1,781,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be returned to the Government of Cyprus;

20. *Decides*, taking into account its voluntary contribution for the financial period ended 30 June 2002, that the prorated share of the net unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 853,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be returned to the Government of Greece;

21. *Also decides* to continue to maintain as separate the account established for the Force for the period prior to 16 June 1993, invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to that account, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in appealing for voluntary contributions to the account;

22. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

23. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Force;

24. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus".

United Nations A/57/839-S/2003/645

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 36 and 160

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 13 June 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in order to draw your attention to the latest horrific terrorist attacks perpetrated against the citizens of Israel.

Since the convening of the Summit at Aqaba, Jordan, a new wave of violent attacks has killed 25 Israelis.

On Wednesday 11 June, at approximately 5 p.m. (local time), a suicide bomber perpetrated a massive attack on a public bus in central Jerusalem. Sixteen people were killed and 112 were wounded when the terrorist, disguised as an ultra-Orthodox Jew, detonated a large explosive device on a crowded bus. Two of the wounded are listed in critical condition. The powerful bomb scattered human remains throughout the area of the attack, and the terrorist used nails and shrapnel in order to increase the pain and suffering of his victims. The force of the bomb blew a number of the passengers out of the bus. The terrorist organization Hamas, which continues to operate freely from Palestinian Authority territory, claimed responsibility for the attack.

At this time, the names of 15 terror victims have been released. Among the murdered are Sgt. Tamar Ben-Eliahu, age 20, of Moshav Paran, Alan Beer, age 47, of Jerusalem, Eugenia Berman, age 50, of Jerusalem, Elsa Cohen, age 70, of Jerusalem, Zvi Cohen, age 39, of Jerusalem, Roi Eliraz, age 22, of Mevaseret Zion, Alexander Kazaris, age 77, of Jerusalem, Tzipora Levy, age 70, of Jerusalem, Tita Martine, age 75, of Jerusalem, Yaffa Mualem, age 65, of Jerusalem, Yaniv Obayed, age 22, of Herzliya, Bat-El Ohana, age 21, of Kiryat Ata, Anna Orgal, age 55, of Jerusalem, Zippora Pesahovitch, age 54, of Zur Hadassah, and Malka Renee Sultan, age 67, of Jerusalem. The identities of two of the 17 victims have not yet been released.

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The purpose of such an attack is to kill as many Israelis as possible, and to destroy efforts to resume the peace process. This despicable act of terrorism is among the most recent in a string of attacks, including a combined attack at the Erez crossing, a shooting in Hebron, the murder of a young couple near Jerusalem, the lethal ambush of an Israeli man in the village of Yabed, the firing of Qassam rockets at the southern town of Sderot, and the shooting of two Israeli women in the West Bank.

On Thursday, 5 June, two young Israelis were murdered by terrorists in a wood close to Moshav Even Sapir, near Jerusalem. The victims, David Shambik, age 27, and Moran Menachem, age 17, were brutally beaten and stoned. According to the Jersualem police department, their bodies were found ripped to shreds by means of knives and other sharp implements.

On Sunday 8 June, four Israeli soldiers were killed when three Palestinian terrorists perpetrated a targeted attack on an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) position in the Erez industrial area, situated in the northern Gaza Strip. Among the murdered were three IDF reserve officers, Sergeant First Class Assaf Abarj'il, age 23, of Eilat, Sergeant First Class Udi Eilat, age 37, of Eilat, and Sergeant First Class Chen Engel, age 31, of Ramat Gan. IDF Warrant Officer, Sergeant First Class Baz Emete, age 23, of Beit Shean, was also killed.

Four soldiers were also wounded in the attack, one moderately and three others lightly, when the terrorists opened fire and threw grenades at the outpost. The three Palestinian militants, disguised in IDF uniforms and armed with Kalashnikovs and grenades, infiltrated the outpost by first passing through the checkpoint for Palestinian labourers employed in the Erez industrial zone.

This checkpoint had recently been opened in the framework of confidence-building measures enacted by the State of Israel, ahead of the Aqaba Summit. Since the beginning of the current conflict, there have been six terrorist attacks at the Erez crossing and three terrorist attacks at other crossings in the Gaza Strip, including the attack at the Karni crossing two months ago in which two Israeli civilians were killed. The Fatah Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad issued a joint statement claiming responsibility for Sunday morning's attack.

Later on Sunday, Staff Sgt. Matan Gadri, age 21, of Moshav Moledet, was killed in Hebron while pursuing two fleeing Palestinian gunmen who earlier had wounded an Israeli border policeman on guard at the Tomb of the Patriarchs. The wounded Israeli policeman was manning a check post at the religious site, used to facilitate the safe movement of Muslim worshippers. When the Palestinian gunmen were eventually apprehended, Kalashnikov assault rifles and ammunition were found on their bodies.

Yesterday, Thursday, 12 June, an Israeli civilian, Avner Maimon, age 51, of Netanya, was killed when he was ambushed by terrorists in a car adjacent to the village of Yabed. Also yesterday, a Qassam rocket was fired at a factory near Sderot. The same factory has been hit before by missiles. Earlier in the day, a Qassam missile was fired at Sderot, and four Kassam rockets were fired at a number of Kibbutzim situated in the western Negev area.

This afternoon, Friday, 13 June, two Israeli women were seriously injured when terrorists opened fire on their car near Neve Tzuf in the West Bank. The identities of the wounded Israeli civilians have not yet been released.

Today's attack is merely the latest attempt by Palestinian terrorists to target Israeli civilians. Countless terrorist attacks have been prevented in recent weeks and days by the extraordinary efforts of Israel's security personnel. Since the Aqaba Summit last week, Israeli security forces continue to receive, on average, 60 daily intelligence reports warning of attempted attacks and have arrested 10 suspected suicide bombers. Wednesday's gruesome suicide attack in Jerusalem was in the late planning stages by last week, and was the result of long-term preparation by the terrorist organization.

On 23 May, Israel agreed to accept the steps set out in the road map (S/2003/529, annex), indicating the desire of the State and of the people of Israel to renew direct negotiations, in accordance with the conditions, principles and stages laid out in President George W. Bush's 24 June 2002 speech. In the context of this effort to restart the peace process, Israel has already started to implement the commitments it took upon itself at the Summit, including the release of Palestinian detainees, the dismantling of unauthorized outposts and the easing of security restrictions.

Unfortunately, the Palestinian Authority has yet to take one single step towards fulfilling its fundamental obligation to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure which it has nurtured and sustained for so long. It is simply intolerable, legally and morally, for the Palestinian Authority to allow murderous organizations, whose very goal is to commit crimes against innocent civilians, to operate freely in its territory. By refusing to take real and genuine steps to confront terrorism, the Palestinian side is once again endangering any prospects for peace and compelling Israel to continue to take the measures necessary to defend its citizens in accordance with its right and duty of self-defence.

Israel hopes that the new Palestinian leadership will prove that it is serious about ending violence, terrorism and incitement irrevocably, and that it is ready to lay the foundations for genuine peace and reconciliation, rather than just pay lip service to these notions. This must include confronting and eradicating terrorist organizations, such as Hamas, which is responsible for Wednesday's suicide bombing in Jerusalem, in addition to the attacks in Erez and Hebron, and has declared its intention to carry out further suicide attacks. Since 1993, Hamas has dispatched 113 suicide bombers, 72 of them since September 2000. As a result of the above-mentioned suicide attacks, 227 Israelis were killed and 1,393 were wounded. Hamas strives to create a united front among the Palestinian terror groups, and cooperates with terrorist organizations in Lebanon and Syria, as well as other international terrorist organizations.

In spite of Wednesday's murderous terrorist attack in Jerusalem, and other violent attacks which have been perpetrated since the Aqaba Summit, Israel will continue to work towards progress in the peace process in the hope of ending the dire reality in the region, and bringing about peace and calm for all peoples.

Israel calls upon the international community to reaffirm its absolute rejection of terrorist tactics, to accept nothing less than the complete dismantling of the terrorist infrastructure by the Palestinian leadership, and to use its authority to compel all regimes that sponsor and incite terrorism in the region to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with international law and Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1373 (2001).

I submit the present letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism that began in September 2000, which document the criminal terrorist strategy for which the terrorists and their supporters must be held fully accountable.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 160, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Arye **Mekel**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/57/840

General Assembly

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17 June 2003

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 117
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 17 June 2003 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

1. At present 16 Member States are in arrears under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states as follows:

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member."

2. The minimum payments necessary to reduce the amounts owed by those Member States on their contributions so that they remain below the gross amount assessed for the preceding two full years (2001 and 2002) are as follows:

Member State	*Minimum payment (United States dollars)*
Burundi	58 000.00
Central African Republic	308 800.00
Comoros	732 500.00[a]
Democratic Republic of the Congo	62 900.00
Djibouti	9 900.00
Georgia	6 796 800.00[a]
Guinea-Bissau	447 700.00[a]
Iraq	12 621 200.00
Kyrgyzstan	93 192.72
Liberia	1 098 800.00
Niger	353 700.00
Republic of Moldova	2 123 770.00[a]

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Member State	*Minimum payment (United States dollars)*
Sao Tome and Principe	551 100.00[a]
Somalia	979 400.00[a]
Tajikistan	1 583 989.00[a]
Vanuatu	9 800.00

[a] In its resolution 57/4 A of 27 September 2002, the General Assembly decided that the Comoros, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Tajikistan would be permitted to vote in the Assembly until 30 June 2003.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General

United Nations A/57/840/Add.1

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 117
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 7 July 2003 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

Further to my letter dated 17 June 2003 (A/57/840), I have the honour to inform you that Djibouti has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General

03-41948 (E) 070703

United Nations A/57/841

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 109 and 160

Human rights questions

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 16 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a General Assembly document under agenda items 109 and 160.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 16 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Republic of Cuba believes that the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, hereinafter referred to as the Declaration, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 49/60 on measures to eliminate international terrorism, is a fully valid, up-to-date instrument for combating the hateful scourge of terrorism.

Although the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies including the Security Council have subsequently adopted many resolutions on the topic, none of them appears to have the scope and impact which characterized the Declaration. The same is true of the various binding legal instruments on the subject, which, important as they are, are essentially partial in nature and do not have the Declaration's depth in terms of principles, aims and concepts.

I. Implementation of the Declaration by the Republic of Cuba

The Republic of Cuba, as can be seen in its determined political will to help fight international terrorism, has fully implemented and continues to implement the principles, aims and concepts enshrined in the Declaration.

Cuba reiterates its most profound condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by or against whomever wherever committed and whatever the motives, including acts in which States are directly or indirectly involved.

In compliance with the Declaration, Cuba reiterates that it has never allowed, nor will it ever allow, its territory to be used for committing, planning or financing terrorist acts against another State.

Cuba also strongly condemns the practice of State terrorism, which has been rejected by the international community in the Declaration in the following words: "States must refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in territories of other States, or from acquiescing in or encouraging activities within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts".

For Cuba, these postulates are fully valid and closely in keeping with its unshakeable position in condemning all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Cuba considers terrorism to be a reprehensible and unacceptable phenomenon, which must be fought by the international community as a whole in a context of close cooperation and of respect for the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law.

In that respect, Cuba reaffirms that it is for the United Nations alone to lead and coordinate an international campaign against terrorism. The effort to combat this phenomenon cannot be conceived or carried out solely on the basis of one country's national interests and foreign policy ambitions; it must constitute a bastion of unity for the international community as a whole in its efforts to eradicate this evil from the face of the earth.

Regardless of the role that other United Nations organs such as the Security Council may play in the fight against terrorism, Cuba wishes to reiterate that the General Assembly is the only organ having the required mandate and characteristics to effectively carry out this work and garner the international cooperation that is essential to a task of this scope.

In the current situation, marked by one great Power's blatant intention to impose universal hegemony through the use of its enormous military might and by its consequent manifest disregard for the norms and principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, Cuba feels it necessary to make abundantly clear that it totally condemns the use of the fight against terrorism as a pretext to justify interference in the internal affairs of other States and aggression, and to question the national sovereignty of States. Cuba once again affirms its stance against terrorism and war.

As demonstrated by its unswerving political will to help eradicate terrorism, Cuba has always maintained a constructive attitude towards any legitimate, feasible initiative aimed at fighting terrorism.

In this context, Cuba has drawn attention innumerable times to the urgent need to adopt a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that will help fill the existing lacunae in United Nations instruments on the prevention and repression of international terrorism, in keeping with paragraph 7 of the Declaration.

This goal, which must never be abandoned by the international community in its tireless effort to combat this evil, has unfortunately been thwarted.

Cuba considers that a comprehensive convention on international terrorism should necessarily contain a clear, precise definition of the criminal offence of terrorism, covering all types and forms of terrorism, envisaging all the material and mental elements that make up a terrorist act and entailing responsibility on the part of both individuals and legal persons.

The absence of a definition of the crime of international terrorism in the relevant legally binding instruments adopted by the international community has facilitated the manipulation and use of politically motivated interpretations by some States, while also encouraging the selective application of these instruments.

Cuba, a victim of innumerable terrorist acts since 1959 that have been conceived, organized and financed with total impunity from the territory of the United States, often by or with the express consent of the United States Government, wishes to reaffirm its conviction that a further definition is needed of terrorist acts committed by a State with the intent of destabilizing another by sponsoring, financing, training or protecting, in or outside its territory, terrorist elements who attack another State. Progress in this direction must be made soon in order to effectively promote an appropriate legal framework to deal with this phenomenon.

Accordingly, Cuba finds it unacceptable that the activities of a State's armed forces which are not regulated by international humanitarian law should be excluded from the scope of application of a future comprehensive convention, especially since Cuba views international terrorism as indeed an unlawful form of behaviour that may be committed by States. Such an exclusion would be contrary to the spirit of the Declaration and would serve as a pretext for State actions intended to destabilize another State.

Cuba also supports the position taken by third world countries that a comprehensive convention on international terrorism must establish a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for their independence against foreign domination and in defence of their right to self-determination.

In its desire to contribute to the full implementation of the Declaration, Cuba will continue to stress the need to adopt a comprehensive convention on international terrorism having the aforementioned characteristics. Cuba believes that the adoption of such a convention would be an effective means of dealing with this scourge, promoting the progressive development of international law and providing the needed reinforcement of the legal framework established in existing sectoral treaties on the subject, in order to rectify and overcome the omissions and deficiencies of these treaties.

Cuba also rejects the manipulation by some States of the theory of the inherent right to self-defence in order to justify the commission of terrorist acts, invoking the so-called right to "preventive defence". The purpose of such manipulation is none other than to attempt to legitimize aggression, the interference in the internal affairs of other States and State terrorism.

In keeping with the spirit of the Declaration, Cuba reaffirms its complete willingness to cooperate bilaterally with any State in the fight against terrorism, provided that it is on the basis of respect for the principle of equal sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs.

Cuba thoroughly rejects the unilateral practice of some States, contrary to the spirit of the Declaration and the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, of arrogating to themselves the right to issue "certifications" and "lists" of countries that supposedly sponsor international terrorism. Cuba considers this to be a spurious, politically motivated and fundamentally flawed exercise. Those who prepare such lists have absolutely no moral authority to set themselves up as international arbiters with regard to terrorism or any other matter.

The absurd inclusion of Cuba on the list, prepared annually by the United States Government, of States that supposedly sponsor international terrorism, is a response to United States domestic policy issues related to petty electoral motives in the state of Florida, where a terrorist mafia acts with impunity and has organized, financed and carried out hundreds of terrorist acts against the Cuban nation.

In the past 44 years, the United States Government has never ceased to invent flimsy excuses for its continued aggressive policy against the Cuban people and their Revolution. In that context, false accusations of an alleged link between Cuba and terrorism have been among the most highly manipulated arguments in that Government's attempt to undermine the prestige and moral authority of the Cuban Revolution.

It is the United States Government that is carrying out a policy of genocide against the Cuban people, which has taken the form of an inhumane and irrational blockade against our country for more than 40 years; this blockade has been condemned on numerous occasions by the international community, as can be seen

in the 11 resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on this topic.[1]

It is the United States Government that has maintained a policy of support, acquiescence and tolerance of terrorism committed against Cuba from its territory for over 40 years, in order to deprive the Cuban nation of its right to self-determination.

II. Principal actions taken in recent years by Cuba to combat terrorism[2]

The steadfast political will which has characterized Cuba since 1959 in its commitment to prevent and combat the phenomenon of terrorism has been demonstrated in the actions it has taken over the past four decades. The following are the principal measures adopted recently:

- On 4 October 2001,the National Assembly of People's Power took a decision requesting the Council of Ministers and the State Council to proceed to the approval and ratification, respectively, of all the international treaties on the subject of terrorism to which Cuba was not yet a party. Cuba accordingly became one of the first States to heed the appeal by the United Nations Secretary-General requesting all States to become parties to the 12 international treaties on terrorism;

- On 20 December 2001, during the eighth session of the Fifth Legislature, the National Assembly of People's Power unanimously approved the Acts of Terrorism Act, the purpose of which is to codify and penalize terrorist and terrorist-related actions on the basis of the existing Penal Code, and of the international conventions adopted within the framework of the United Nations to which Cuba is a party. The Act enhances and updates current penal provisions by seeking to prevent and penalize acts committed with explosive or lethal artefacts, chemical or biological agents, or other devices or substances; hostage-taking; acts against internationally protected persons; acts against the safety of maritime navigation, civil aviation and airports and all other acts against safety in the air or at sea, including those against the safety of fixed platforms located on the continental shelf or an island. This Act broke new ground by criminalizing and penalizing terrorist acts committed with the use of computers and information techniques. By adopting this Act, Cuba brought its legislation up to date and made it all-encompassing, thereby enabling it to confront, in an effective and coherent manner, all forms and manifestations of terrorism and other related offences;

- Besides carrying out legislative action, Cuba has adopted a number of legal-administrative measures and actions which are designed to prevent and detect

[1] See resolutions 47/19 of 24 November 1992, 48/16 of 3 November 1993, 49/9 of 26 October 1994, 50/10 of 2 November 1995, 51/17 of 12 November 1996, 52/10 of 5 November 1997, 53/4 of 14 October 1998, 54/21 of 9 November 1999, 55/20 of 9 November 2000, 56/9 of 27 November 2001 and 57/11 of 12 November 2002.

[2] The two reports submitted by Cuba to the Counter-Terrorism Committee (S/2002/15 and S/2002/1093), in accordance with paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), deal in far greater depth and detail with the measures which Cuba had adopted to combat terrorism.

acts of terrorism and other related international offences. These include the many instructions and decisions issued by the Central Bank of Cuba to prevent money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, together with the action taken by the National Customs Service and the Ministry of the Interior to enhance surveillance and inspection in order to bar terrorist elements from entering the national territory;

- Cuba has implemented in full Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). On 27 December 2001, the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee received a detailed and painstaking report, which was issued as an official document on 2 January 2002 (S/2002/15). The report reflects the positions taken by Cuba on the subject and provides a wealth of information about the penal and non-penal measures and actions which Cuba adopted, both before and after resolution 1373, for the prevention and suppression of terrorism. In addition, on 24 September 2002, Cuba submitted to the same Committee a supplementary report, issued as an official document on 30 September 2002 (S/2002/1093), which dealt in greater depth with some of the issues discussed in the initial report. Cuba is currently preparing answers to the questions posed by the Counter-Terrorism Committee regarding its supplementary report and will submit them at the appropriate time, in accordance with the schedule established;

- Cuba has unceasingly sought forms of bilateral cooperation with which to confront international terrorism on the basis of mutual respect and the sovereign equality of States. In this regard, the United States Government, using false and irrational arguments, rejected a Cuban proposal for the conclusion of a bilateral programme to combat terrorism. The proposal was made on 29 November 2001 and was reiterated on 3 December 2001, on 12 March 2002 and again on 17 December 2002, on the occasion of the nineteenth round of migration talks between the two Governments.

III. Cuba as a victim of international terrorism

For more than 40 years the people of Cuba have been subjected to countless terrorist actions, the vast majority of which have been planned and organized in United States territory, with support, protection and funding from successive United States Governments. As a result of these acts, the Cuban people have paid a heavy toll in human life, suffering a total of 3,478 deaths and 2,099 physical injuries. The Cuban nation has also paid a high price in economic terms owing to persistent acts of sabotage, and even biological attacks, of which it has been the target throughout its defence of its own sovereignty and self-determination.

It is common knowledge that countless terrorist organizations operate from United States territory against Cuba with total impunity and that notorious and confessed criminals circulate freely in the streets of the United States. They include such recognized terrorists and murderers as Luis Posada Carriles, Orlando Bosch, Gaspar Jiménez Escobedo, Pedro Remón, Guillermo Novo Sampoll, Leonel Macías, Nazario Sargent. Francisco José Hernández Calvo, José Basulto, Rubén Dario López Castro, Roberto Martín Pérez, Silverio Rodríguez Pérez, Rodolfo Frómeta, Ramón Leocadio Bonachea, William Chávez, and so on ad infinitum. These individuals bear

the responsibility for the loss of Cuban lives and for the suffering in the thousands of homes which have lost family members as a result of their unscrupulous actions.

The United States Government's policy of support for terrorism against Cuba, the violation by the United States of the migration agreements which the two Governments have signed in order to ensure legal, orderly and safe migration, the existence of United States legislation which openly encourages illegal emigration from Cuba under the so-called Cuban Adjustment Act, the United States authorities' benevolent treatment of those who hijack Cuban boats and aircraft, even though such acts are criminal offences according to international terrorism instruments to which the United States is a party — all this is the direct cause of the countless terrorist actions committed in Cuba by unscrupulous individuals, who have endangered human life and even killed people in order to hijack boats or aircraft and head for the United States. The United States Government has made not the slightest attempt to surrender any of the persons sought by Cuban justice.

These facts are further proof of the lack of political will on the part of the United States Government to punish the crime of terrorism when it is committed against countries which maintain their own independent positions and do not subscribe to United States policies.

Cuba considers that trying to assume the leadership role in the international campaign against terrorism, yet at the same time providing support and a safe haven whenever a terrorist strikes at the Cuban Revolution, is one more example of the double standard espoused by the United States Government when dealing with international terrorism.

The most perfect example of such cynicism and double standard on the part of the United States Government in its alleged international campaign against terrorism is the unfair conviction by a venal Federal court in Miami of the Cuban nationals Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Fernando González and the United States nationals Antonio Guerrero and René González. The only "crime" of which these individuals were guilty was monitoring the actions of several terrorist organizations that operate in the United States against Cuba and protecting the Cuban people, and also the United States people, against the scourge of terrorism.

During their more than four years of unjust imprisonment in United States jails, these young men have had their most basic human rights violated on numerous occasions. Among other things, they were subjected to solitary confinement for a continuous period of 17 months, suffered inhumane and degrading treatment, were cruelly shut away in punishment cells for no reason and were deprived of contact with their lawyers at the time they were preparing their appeal to the Court of Appeals in Atlanta. Moreover, countless obstacles were put in the way of visits by family members, including a ban on visits by two of the wives, a situation which Cuba duly denounced at the United Nations, as can be seen from documents A/56/969[3] of 5 May 2002, A/56/1031[4] of 3 September 2002 and A/57/760[5] of 18

[3] Letter complaining that the entry visa to the United States of Olga Salanueva was revoked.

[4] Letter complaining about the treatment of Adriana Pérez upon her arrival in the United States.

[5] Document to which are annexed a declaration by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba concerning the five Cuban patriots and a note by the Working Group against Terrorism of the National Assembly of People's Power concerning the situation of Gerardo Hernández.

March 2003, which were circulated under the agenda items "Human rights questions" and "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

During the court proceedings these persons experienced numerous violations of their lawful right to receive a just and impartial trial, with all the procedural guarantees established under international law and in the United States law itself. Furthermore, care was taken to ensure that the subject of terrorist actions against Cuba did not come up during the trial. Lastly, the Government asked the court not only to impose the severest penalties possible but also to add a further penalty, in case they were ever released, to ensure that they could not take further action against the terrorists who operate from Miami against Cuba:

> *"As a further special condition of their supervised release: the defendant is prohibited from associating with or visiting specific places where individuals or groups such as terrorists ... are known to be or to frequent".*[6]

At the same time, in spite of the existence of the international campaign against terrorism, the Miami-based terrorist mafia of Cuban origin continue their attempt to abort the trial in Panama of the terrorists Luis Posada Carriles, Gaspar Jiménez Escobedo, Guillermo Sampoll and Pedro Remón Rodríguez.

As will be recalled, these notorious terrorists planned, inter alia, the emplacement of highly destructive plastic explosives in an auditorium of the University of Panama with the intention of assassinating the President of Cuba, Fidel Castro Ruz, who was in Panama for the Tenth Ibero-American Summit. Had the plan not been thwarted thanks to the intervention of Cuban authorities, the explosives would have killed hundreds of students, staff and others due to participate in the ceremony at which the Cuban leader was scheduled to speak.

As Cuba has reported on various occasions since the aforementioned terrorists were first arrested, mafia groups based in Miami and Panama have not let up in their efforts to rescue the individuals in question from the action of the justice system. With this end in view, the notorious agents of the Miami-based terrorist mafia have travelled many times to Panama.

They have been planning a possible flight of the individuals to a country of the region, and they have been manipulating the media, so that these terrorists are being portrayed as persecuted by the Cuban Government for political reasons. Substantial sums of money have been sent from the United States to pay defence and other trial-related costs.

Cuba trusts that these individuals will not be treated with the impunity which they and their friends are seeking and that their actions will be judged severely, in proportion to the magnitude and gravity of their terrorist behaviour, which has disrupted lives and damaged property in more than a score of nations.

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[6] Excerpt from the court transcript of the trial before Judge Joan A. Lenard, 14 December 2001.

IV. Terrorist actions committed against Cuba in the last 10 months

6 August 2002

A Cuban boat, "Plástico 16", belonging to the port of La Coloma, Pinar del Río, was hijacked by five individuals and sailed to the United States. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba submitted diplomatic note No. 1428 of 27 August 2002 requesting the Government of the United States to return the hijackers. That request was not met. On the contrary, months later the hijackers were released in the United States.

26 October 2002

At 1 a.m. seven individuals entered the Manoplas anchorage in the municipality of Santa Cruz del Sur, Camagüey Province, tied up the guards and took two boats, "Alecrín" and "Mabel", for the purpose of leaving the country illegally. The guards were taken on board the ships and left at the Revienta Caballo estuary. The hijackers then went to Belize, where they are currently in detention.

11 November 2002

Several individuals hijacked an AN-2 fumigation plane for the purpose of travelling to the United States. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba submitted diplomatic notes No. 1778 of 2002 and No. 180 of 2003 requesting the Government of the United States to return the hijackers and the aircraft. The United States authorities did not even bring charges against the hijackers, whom they released four days after their arrival in the country.

26 November 2002

Between 4.10 and 4.30 a.m., on the "Calderón" road in the Dos Ríos shantytown, municipality of Palma Soriano, Santiago, Cuba, three individuals carrying firearms attempted to hijack an AN-2 agricultural plane, number plate CU-1170, for the purpose of travelling to the United States. The individuals threatened one of the guards with a firearm, relieved him of his weapon and wounded another guard in the chest and arm after he shot at the hijackers.

In addition, the fuel plant operator and supplier of the aircraft were captured, threatened, beaten and attached to the boat's landing gear by the hijackers, who tried to remove the padlock from the propeller and attempted in other ways to damage the security devices. On failing to achieve their purpose, the hijackers took the guards' weapons and fled. They were later arrested by the Cuban authorities, with the exception of one, who died from an injury sustained during the incident.

29 January 2003

On Isla de la Juventud a ferrocement boat, "Cabo Corrientes", was hijacked and sailed to the United States. The Cuban authorities requested the Government of the United States to return the hijackers. No reply has been received to date. On the contrary, the United States authorities immediately released the hijackers.

3 February 2003

At 6.05 p.m. a Cuban border patrol unit saw the list five vessel "El Cañon", with 15 persons on board, attempting to leave the country illegally through the bay of Santa Cruz del Sur, Camagüey.

At 10 p.m. the ship collided with ferrocement boat 358, belonging to the Ministry of Fisheries, some 14 miles south of the province. As a result of the collision all the individuals on board (10 men, four women and one child) fell overboard and were rescued by the ferrocement boat's crew.

Once rescued, the individuals in question, using a machete and fishing devices, forced the ferrocement boat's crew back out to sea, seized the boat and continued sailing until they reached Honduras.

6 February 2003

A border patrol boat was hijacked by four individuals and taken to the United States. The Cuban Government requested the United States Government to return the hijackers. However, the United States Department of State has not yet replied to the Cuban request, and it is not known whether the United States authorities have pressed charges against the hijackers.

19 March 2003

At 7.24 a.m., six individuals accompanied by their relatives hijacked to the United States a DC-3 aircraft, number plate CUT-1192, belonging to the Cuban company "Aerotaxi" and servicing flight No. 877 (Nuevo Gerona-Havana), with 36 persons on board, including four children. The perpetrators threatened the crew and passengers with knives and other sharp objects, seriously endangering their lives.

31 March 2003

At 9.22 p.m., an individual, accompanied by his wife and son, allegedly using a hand grenade, hijacked an AN-22 aircraft belonging to Cubana de Aviación, servicing flight CUB-705 (Nueva Gerona-Havana), with the intention of going to the United States. Four crew members and 47 passengers, including five children, were on board. The perpetrator threatened to explode the aircraft with all the hostages on board if he was not taken to United States territory, thus seriously endangering the lives of the persons in the aircraft.

2 April 2003

In the early morning 11 individuals, who were acting as an organized group and had a child with them, boarded and hijacked a passenger ferry in the port of Havana with the intention of travelling to United States territory. The perpetrators seized control of the ship by threatening the crew and passengers with a firearm and knives and held them hostage for nearly 24 hours, without access to drinking water, medicines or food, thus seriously endangering their lives and physical integrity. There were 36 passengers on board, including one child, and four foreign citizens.

After some complicated operations the Cuban authorities managed to capture the individuals in question, whose acts were severely punished by the competent

courts, in accordance with Cuba's criminal legislation and with respect for the internationally recognized guarantees of due process.

The accused received severe penalties: three were sentenced to death and four to life imprisonment, and the remaining four to prison terms of 30 years, five years, three years and two years respectively.

10 April 2003

In the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud, eight individuals armed with knives attacked an army private who was performing his border patrol service in a military unit, tied him up and took his AKM rifle and three cartridges, with the intention of going to Rafael Cabrera Mustelier airport to hijack the aircraft covering flight No. 704 CUT 1236 with a total of 47 passengers on board, including a four-year-old child.

The eight persons detained in connection with these events acknowledged their intent to meet in the airport waiting room moments before the landing of the last Havana-Nueva Gerona flight of the day and, after allowing about 10 passengers to disembark, to break the window on the runway side and forcibly board the aircraft, taking hostage the passengers still inside the aircraft and its crew, and then to demand to be taken to United States territory.

These individuals were punished for the offences of terrorism and robbery with violence. Five of them were sentenced to life imprisonment, one to 30 years' imprisonment, one to 25 years' imprisonment and one to 20 years' imprisonment.

Because of the severity and increasing frequency of such actions, openly promoted by the United States Government's policy of encouraging illegal immigration from Cuba, and the fact that they are part of a far-reaching plan designed to destabilize the country, create a migration crisis and escalate tensions between Cuba and the United States, which would place the security of the country and the entire region at risk, the Cuban courts were forced to impose severe criminal penalties on those responsible for these incidents and even to impose the death sentence on some of the more violent terrorists arrested. The Council of State of the Republic of Cuba upheld these sentences with sorrow but convinced of its responsibility to protect the peace and security of its people

The Government of the Republic of Cuba has always tirelessly exercised its right to self-defence against such actions and will continue to do so in the future.

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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 20 June 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in order to draw your attention to the latest terrorist attacks perpetrated against the citizens of Israel.

Since the convening of the Summit at Aqaba, Jordan, a new wave of violent attacks has killed 30 Israelis, including children, women and the elderly.

This afternoon, Friday 20 June, at approximately 1.40 p.m. (local time), Palestinian terrorists ambushed a car carrying an Israeli family near the community of Ofra, north-east of Jerusalem. An Israeli man, whose son was married yesterday, was killed when terrorists fired rounds of ammunition at the car, en route to a post-wedding celebration. Four other family members were seriously injured in the shooting, including the American grandparents of the recently married man. The terrorist organization Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack.

Yesterday, Thursday 19 June, at approximately 6 a.m. (local time), a suicide bomber perpetrated an attack in a grocery store in the northern Israeli community of Sde Trumot. The owner of the store, Avner Mordechai, age 63, of Sde Trumot, died of critical wounds he suffered in the attack. Were it not for actions taken by the store owner to obstruct the terrorist and prevent him from entering the adjacent community, the human costs would have been far greater. Mordechai was married and leaves behind six young children. The terrorist organization Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack.

On Tuesday 17 June, two Palestinian terrorists ambushed a car carrying a family of eight Israelis on the central Trans-Israel Highway, near the Kibbutz Eyal junction. A young Israeli girl, Noam Leibowitz, age 7, of Yemin Orde was killed, and three members of her family, including her younger sister, age 3, and grandfather, were seriously wounded when the terrorists opened fire on the vehicle in the late evening. The Fatah al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the Popular Front for

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the Liberation of Palestine — General Command, headed by Syrian-based Ahmed Jibril, claimed responsibility for the attack.

On Wednesday 18 June, at approximately 1.30 p.m. (local time), a Qassam rocket hit the northern Israeli community of Nativ Ha'asara. The rocket hit the roof of a residential building and exploded before falling into the living room below. The structure was severely damaged, but the residents of the house escaped without injury. Earlier this week, on Sunday 15 June, five Qassam rockets were fired at several southern Israeli towns, including Sderot, which has been the target of scores of Qassam rocket attacks in the past months.

Today's attack is merely the latest attempt by Palestinian terrorists to target Israeli civilians. Countless terrorist attacks have been prevented in recent weeks and days by the extraordinary efforts of Israel's security forces. During monitoring activity by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Thursday 12 June in the Gaza Strip, the IDF intercepted Fuad Lidawi, a Hamas terrorist operative, who was on his way to launch Qassam rockets at Israel. Qassam rockets and other weapons were found stored in his vehicle. This operation is just one example of IDF efforts to thwart directly the ability of terrorists to carry out attacks against innocent Israeli civilians.

At the recent Aqaba Summit, the Palestinian Authority committed itself to dismantling terrorist organizations and to ending violence and incitement. Unfortunately, the Palestinian leadership has so far failed to make the strategic and responsible decision to disable terrorists in any capacity. An extensive terrorist infrastructure continues to operate freely in Palestinian Authority territory, perpetrating murderous attacks against innocent Israeli civilians without reprimand. Virulent anti-Israel incitement continues to undermine the very foundations of genuine peace and reconciliation for both peoples.

Israel hopes that the new Palestinian leadership will take the necessary concrete steps to eliminate terrorism and the capability of terrorists to perpetrate future attacks, by disarming, arresting and bringing known terrorists to justice. Failure by the new Palestinian leadership to take real and genuine steps to eliminate terrorism, in the face of rampant violence, will prevent any progress in the peace process and compel Israel to exercise its inherent right and duty of self-defence. Israel has an obligation to intercept terrorists, particularly those identified as ticking bombs, and deal with those individuals in order to make sure that innocent lives are not lost.

Despite today's murderous terrorist attack, Israel hopes that the diplomatic process will proceed, and that peace for all peoples of the region will be achieved. In order to move forward, the Palestinian Authority must follow through with its commitments. Israel has already started to implement the commitments it took upon itself at the Aqaba Summit, in accordance with Israel's acceptance of the steps set out in the road map, and the conditions, principles and stages described in the speech by President Bush on 24 June 2002. Since the Aqaba meeting, Israel has released Palestinian detainees, dismantled unauthorized outposts, eased security restrictions and held security meetings with Palestinian leadership, providing a strong and concrete indication of the desire of the State and of the people of Israel to conduct a peace process which will lead to an agreed settlement.

Israel calls upon the international community to reaffirm its absolute rejection of terrorist tactics, to accept nothing less than the complete dismantling of the

terrorist infrastructure and to use its authority to compel all regimes that sponsor terrorism in the region to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with international law and Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1373 (2001).

I submit this letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism that began in September 2000, which document the criminal terrorist activity for which the terrorists and their supporters must be held fully accountable.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 160 and 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Arye **Mekel**
Ambassador
Charge d'affaires a .i.

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Agenda item 31 of the preliminary list*
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 30 June 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to the letter dated 19 March 2003, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force recorded on 17 and 19 March, on 7, 14, 16, 25 April, on 5, 15, 17 May and on 5, 16, 19, 20, 23 and 27 June 2003, as follows:

On 17 March 2003, one (1) Turkish military aircraft of unknown type entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 19 March 2003, one (1) B-200 Turkish military aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus, where it had landed two days before, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus over the area of Mesaoria and before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 19 March 2003, four (4) F-16 Turkish military aircraft, coming from the FIR of Ankara in one formation, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus before exiting in a westerly direction.

On 7 April 2003, one (1) C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus. The aircraft departed on the same day.

* A/58/50 Rev.1 and Corr.1.

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On 14 April 2003, one (1) B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus. The aircraft departed on the same day.

On 16 April 2003, one (1) C-160 Turkish military aircraft, coming from the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before going back to the FIR of Ankara.

On 25 April 2003, one (1) C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus. The aircraft departed on the same day.

On 5 May 2003, four (4) Turkish military aircraft (two F-4 and two RF-4) in one formation entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 15 May 2003, eight (8) F-4 Turkish military aircraft in two formations, coming from the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, before exiting in a westerly direction.

On 17 May 2003, one (1) Turkish military aircraft of unknown type, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 5 June 2003, one (1) UH-1H Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko and after a while at the illegal airport of Krini in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 16 June 2003, one (1) B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where it departed on the same day.

On 19 June 2003, one (1) C-650 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas, before exiting in a south-easterly direction, from where it returned on the same day.

On 19 June 2003, one (1) CN-235 and one CUGAR Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The CN-235 aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus, where it had landed on 17 June 2003 and flew over the maritime area of Kyrenia on a search and rescue mission, before landing at the same airport.

(b) The CUGAR aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the Nicosia FIR, flying over Mesaoria, before landing initially at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko and then at the illegal airport of Krini in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus. On the same day, the aircraft took off and flying over the area of Mesaoria, returned to the illegal airport of Krini.

On 20 June 2003, one (1) CN-235 Turkish military aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus, where it had landed on 17 June 2003 and, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus over the area of Mesaoria, exited towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 23 June 2003, one (1) CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, from where it departed on the same day.

On 27 June 2003, one (1) Turkish military aircraft of unknown type took off from the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus over the area of Mesaoria, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I strongly protest all the above-mentioned violations of the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, which violate international law as well as Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, and call for their immediate cessation. It is hoped that the Government of Turkey will respect the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus and refrain from further violations. The Government of Turkey should also heed the appeals of the international community to change its own negative stance and exercise its influence on the Turkish-Cypriot leadership, in order to contribute to the efforts to find a just and functional solution to the Cyprus problem, on the basis of United Nations resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Kasoulides**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.